



MMU Sport Club Student Behaviour Standards

Purpose

These behaviour standards apply to all members of MMU Sport Clubs, including coaches and volunteers. They outline expectations of reasonable behaviour when participating in any MMU Sport club activity or related social activity. The process and possible sanctions, which may be used in the event that sport club members do not meet the expectations of reasonable behaviour, can be found on the Manchester Metropolitan web site.

Expectations:

The University expects that students and coaches participating in all activities related to sports clubs will at all times demonstrate respect for:

- Themselves, fellow Manchester Met students, university and Union staff, students of other institutions, external venue staff, volunteers, coaches, officials and spectators and service providers (e.g. coach drivers);
- Laws and culture of the relevant sporting activities;
- Property of Manchester Met, MMU Sport and any venue they are visiting.

Participants are also expected to:

- Value their own performances, that of others and not just results;
- Co-operate with team/club mates, coaches and officials

MMU Sport Clubs Behaviours:

All MMU Sport Club members agree to abide by the behaviours outlined in the non-exhaustive list below:

- To adhere to the Sports Club Constitution, general rules, regulations and policies of Manchester Met and The Union (which includes, but is not limited to, Manchester Met students code of conduct, <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/student-case-management/guidance-for-students/student-code-of-conduct/> University Health and Safety Policies, MMU Sport Code of Conduct and the [Code of Conduct for The Union Members](#));
- To adhere to the rules and regulations of the relevant sports' governing body, and where necessary the relevant international federations, agreeing to demonstrate sporting behaviour towards opponents, staff and officials at all times;
- To be fair, considerate, honest and respectful to the needs of fellow students, staff, volunteers, coaches and visitors to Manchester Met;
- To respect Manchester Met's property and that of others (e.g. external facilities and transport providers), and not cause damage to such property or use it for unapproved purposes;
- To never behave violently where this is outside the rules of the sport or deliberately seek to gain an advantage through cheating, or use prohibited substances;
- To encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour;
- To refrain from any behaviour that brings the Club or Manchester Met into disrepute;
- To adhere to the rules and regulations in the [Student Regulations for use of University Computing Resources](#) and take personal responsibility for their words, images and actions in an online environment;
- To understand that any 'welcome' activity for new club members should be inclusive, non-compulsory, and should not, in the judgement of MMU Sport, make the individuals feel humiliated or degraded;

- To refrain from any form of ‘hazing’ throughout the year so clubs remain inclusive for all;
- To refrain from use of any illegal drugs and banned substances in line with [UK Anti-Doping guidance](#)
- Not act in an unlawful manner;
- To understand the repercussions of any breaches of these standards.

It is a requirement that MMU Sport Club Members sign up to these Behaviour Standards in order to become a member of a MMU Sport Club.

MMU Sport Code of Conduct

The primary concern for MMU Sport will always be the welfare of students and protecting those that take part in and lead our Sports Clubs. We recognise that all students, (including committee members and playing members) may encounter some difficult situations throughout the year, and the following guidelines have been put in place to ensure that the clubs look after the safety and wellbeing of anyone attending any activity or social with your club. Whenever you are playing for or are out with your Sports Club you are representing the Manchester Metropolitan University.

What do these guidelines cover?

These guidelines seek to clarify what is reasonable behaviour when you are participating in any activity or social event under the name of Manchester Metropolitan University. All students are expected to also abide by the University’s Student Code of Conduct, which all students agree to when they become a student at the University: <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/media/mmuacuk/content/documents/student-case-management/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

What are the aims of this Code of Conduct?

- To protect members of the Sport Clubs
- To protect others potentially affected by members’ actions
- Ensure the highest possible standards of fairness, honesty, competition and behaviour
- Reduce the risk of harm, injury, harassment and nuisance to members and the community in general
- Create inclusive and vibrant student groups
- Facilitate an environment to enable all those involved with MMU Sport to be the best they can be
- Detail the actions that can be taken should the Code of Conduct be breached to ensure a strong reputation both internally and to the University externally.

To whom does this Code apply?

- All members of a MMU Sport Club
- All persons officially appointed to any team or individual competing in an event (including administrators, coaches, managers, medical practitioners and physiotherapists)
- Supporters of MMU Sports Clubs.

Behavioural Expectations

- To act as an appropriate ambassador for the University and your club
- To refrain from any behaviour that brings the Club, MMU Sport or The University into disrepute

- To adhere to the rules and regulations of the relevant sports' governing body, and where necessary the relevant international federations, agreeing to demonstrate sporting behaviour towards opponents, staff and officials at all times
- To never behave violently where this is outside the rules of the sport or deliberately seek to gain an advantage through cheating, or use of prohibited substances
- To not consume alcohol whilst being transported to or from any activity organised under the umbrella of MMU Sport
- To not pressure or coerce any other member into any action with which they feel uncomfortable
- To conduct themselves in a reasonable manner relating to language, noise and behaviour
- Not engage in any activity which results in anti-social behaviour or noise nuisance in off campus communities or licenced premises
- To refrain from any form of harassment of others and respect the rights, dignity and values of others
- To take responsibility for their own understanding of this Code of Conduct and the repercussions of any breaches and seek further information or clarification if they are unsure about how it should be applied
- To not encourage or pressure others into acting against the Code of Conduct
- To act within the law, and to be aware of offending others and members of the public through anti-social behaviour.

Off Campus

The University works hard to build good relationships with its local communities. It works with residents' associations, local representatives and the police in order to help make Manchester Met campuses and the surrounding area safe and friendly environments to live in. In that context, students are expected to:

- Help to support these relationships in the way that they conduct themselves in the surrounding area
- Be considerate to their neighbours, especially in relation to noise levels and rubbish
- Act within the law and not engage in activity or behaviour that is likely to bring the University into disrepute

Initiations Policy

Manchester Metropolitan University **do not** permit Initiation Ceremonies.

An 'Initiation Ceremony' is defined as:

An event in which members (often new members) of a club are expected to perform a task or tasks, as a means to gain credibility, status or entry in to the club. This may be achieved by peer pressure (although not explicitly) and may compromise a person's inherent dignity by forcing or requiring an individual to partake in activities such as: drinking alcohol, eating mixtures of various foodstuffs, nudity and any other behaviour that may be deemed humiliating. This also extends to online initiation activities on social networking sites or blogs, etc. Individuals should not be pressured into divulging personal information, be subject to comments, photos or images that demean or compromise the dignity of individuals or groups.

What are acceptable social activities?

Social activities such as those identified below are encouraged. You should aim to create activities that welcome new members and provide a positive first impression of university life, and throughout the year support a positive club culture.

Acceptable social activities include

- Welcome evening for new members
- Club and award dinners
- Team meals
- Social nights
- Team bonding activities e.g. paintball, bowling etc.
- Celebrations (Birthday and Christmas meals)

When planning and running club social activities, the following must occur

- All activities must be opt-in and have no bearing on the acceptance into the team/squad selection or equivalent
- Peer pressure must not be exerted on individuals
- Activities must not be humiliating, unlawful or degrading
- Activities must not involve the forced consumption of any fluid/substance
- Taking of alcohol to the activity/event must not be made a condition of attendance
- If activities involve alcohol then non-alcoholic drinks must be made available
- Activities must not bring the reputation of The University into question or disrepute.

What is an organised MMU Sports club activity or social?

If any of the following criteria apply, then an event or social is deemed as being 'organised' by the Club:

- Activity publicised at a Club meeting
- Activity in any way publicised by the Club
- Activity funded in part or in whole by MMU Sport or through a club's private accounts
- Activity requiring the use of equipment owned by the Club/University
- Activity where group transport is booked through MMU Sport
- You are wearing clothing that identifies you with Manchester Metropolitan University or your club (including fancy dress)
- Activity publicised on social media pages (i.e. Facebook groups and twitter) and the MMU Sport website(s)
- Any Wednesday Night social/event will be classed as an organised event

Competitions & Fixtures Policy

When representing Manchester Met in competitions and/or fixtures, each competitor must:

- Adhere to the laws of the sport
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote fair play
- Always respect the official's decision
- Refrain from engaging in public criticism of game officials
- Refrain from engaging in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour, whether expressed verbally or via social networking sites or other technology
- Refrain from engaging in bullying, intimidating or harassment, whether expressed verbally or via social networking sites or other technology
- Speak to their club-mates, opposition, coach, and MMU Sport staff with respect
- Win or lose with dignity. Thank the opposition and official at the end of every game.

Social Media Policy

According to the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR), social media are “Internet and mobile-based channels and tools that allow users to interact with each other and share opinions and content. It involves the building of communities or networks and encouraging participation and engagement.” This is the recognised definition for the purpose of this document.

Any communications that sports club members make in a Sports Club capacity through social media must not;

- do anything that could be considered discriminatory against, or bullying or harassment of, any individual, for example by:
 - making offensive or derogatory comments relating to sex, gender reassignment, race (including nationality), disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age or;
 - using social media to bully another individual or;
 - posting images that are discriminatory or offensive or links to such content or;
- bring the University/MMU Sport into disrepute, for example by:
 - criticising or arguing with students, employees or competitors or making defamatory comments about individuals or other organisations or groups.
 - Posting images that are inappropriate or links to inappropriate content.

Clubs should provide MMU Sport with a list of all club social media accounts as part of their induction paperwork.

Reporting breaches to the Sport Code of Conduct

If you as an individual and/or club have concerns over the behaviour of individuals and/or a club, please report it directly to a member of MMU Sport staff or via email to sportclubs@mmu.ac.uk

Potential Consequences of Breaching the Sports Code of Conduct

When the code of conduct is breached by an individual and/or group, the Club will face possible sanctions (external authorities notwithstanding i.e. the police). The University has a clear disciplinary process. MMU Sport and/or The University will deal with any complaints and each case will be dealt with individually.

The following is a list of potential sanctions that may be imposed on an individual and/or a Sports Club:

- Club fine
- Removal of privileges such as support from website/and or social media accounts
- Removal of ability to hire out or use university facilities as a club
- Cutting teams from the Club
- Removal from BUCS competition
- Removal of Performance Sport status

Potential Individual Sanctions and Punishments:

- Match Bans
- Fine for damages
- Ban from all Club related events
- Expulsion as a member of the Club

University and/or External Organisations (e.g. police):

- Fine
- Community Service

- Disbandment of Club
- University disciplinary procedures (which could lead to possible expulsion from University & Course)
- Arrest / Court / Criminal record

All members of the Club must show respect at all times towards the groups, individuals, and property with which they meet during the year (University or Non-University).

It is a requirement that MMU Sport Club Members sign up to this Code of Conduct in order to become a member of a MMU Sport Club